

~~Patent Claims~~

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for testing the inhibit function of a network component transmission-inhibiting device used for inhibiting a transmission line (TX) from the network component (10) to the network by performing an inhibit function which causes a logical signal (H) to be applied to a first node (K1), characterized by the steps:

tapping the potential of the transmission line (TX) and feeding the tapped potential back to the network component (10);

activating the inhibit function;

transmitting a predefined test signal message from the network component (10) to the network via the transmission line (TX) during activated inhibit function; and

testing the inhibit function by analyzing the tapped potential fed back.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, characterized by the step of tapping the potential of the transmission line (TX) at a second node (K2) between the first node (K1) and the transmission port (151) of the network component (10), the transmission port being connected to the transmission line (TX).
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the network component (10) is a controller, in particular a microcontroller having an interrupt function which can be controlled via an interrupt port (INT); in that the tapped potential is fed back to the interrupt port (INT); and in that the inhibit

function is tested by analyzing whether or not an interrupt is triggered.

4. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the network component (10) is a controller, in particular a microcontroller, having a scannable input port; in that the tapped potential is fed back to the scannable input port; and in that the inhibit function is tested by analyzing the signal at the scanned input port.

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the logical signal (H) is applied to the first node (K1) by closing a switch (S1) which is located between the first node (K1) and a supply potential (V+).

6. A device for carrying out the method as recited in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized by:

a test signal line (CSM) for tapping the potential of the transmission line (TX) and feeding the tapped potential back to the network component (10);

a test-signal message transmitting device for transmitting a predefined test signal message from the network component (10) to the network via the transmission line (TX) in response to an activated inhibit function; and

a testing device for testing the inhibit function by analyzing the fed back, tapped potential in the network component (10) during transmission of the predefined test signal message.

7. The device as recited in Claim 6,

characterized by

a resistance (R) which is provided between the first node (K1) and the transmission port (151) connected to the transmission line (TX).

8. The device as recited in Claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the transmission inhibiting device comprises:

a transmission inhibit signal generating device (20) for generating an inhibit signal during activation of the inhibit function; and

a switching device (S1) which is interposed between a supply potential (V+) and the first node (K1), and which can be closed in response to the inhibit signal.

9. The device as recited in Claim 6 through 8, characterized in that the test signal line (CSM) for tapping the potential of the transmission line (TX) is connected to a second node (K2) between the first node (K1) and the transmission port (151) of the network component (10), the transmission port being connected to the transmission line (TX).

10. The device as recited in Claim 6 through 8, characterized in that the test signal line (CSM) for tapping the potential of the transmission line (TX) is connected to a second node (K2) in the network component (10) upstream of the transmission port (151) of the network component (10).

11. The device as recited in Claim 6 through 10, characterized in that the network component (10) has a CAN controller (15) which is connected via the transmission line (TX) to a CAN transmission/receiving

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